

REMARKS

We note that an information disclosure statement is being filed with this amendment.

We address the items listed in the detailed action in the order in which they were raised.

Abstract

We enclose a new abstract as requested.

Drawings

We enclose formal drawings and ask that the Examiner replace the originally filed drawings with these.

Claim Rejections

Prior to this amendment, the application included claims 58-107, with claims 58, 77, 83, and 98 being independent claims.

In this amendment, we have amended claims 58 and 83, canceled claims 68 and 91, and added new claims 108-115. Accordingly, claims 58-67, 69-90, and 92-115 are presented, with claims 58, 77, 83, 98, 108, 109, and 111-113 being independent claims.

Double Patenting

We have submitted a terminal disclaimer with this amendment. Accordingly, we ask that the nonstatutory double patenting rejection of claims 58-107 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102 and §103

The action rejected claims 58-67, 71-73¹, 83-88, 92, 93, and 97 under 35 USC §102(b) and claims 105/58, 105/83, 106/58, 106/83, 107/58, and 107/83 under 35 USC §103(a) in view of Lau et al. (US 4,714, 339).

¹ The action on page 5 states that claims "17-73" are rejected. We presume that this is a typographical error as only claims 58-107 are pending, and we ask that the Examiner please clarify this in the next communication.

We have amended independent claim 58 to include the limitation of claim 68 and ask that the rejection of claim 58 under 35 USC §102 be withdrawn. We have also amended independent claim 83 to include the limitation of claim 91 and ask that the rejection of claim 83 under 35 USC §102 be withdrawn.

New independent claims 108 and 109 correspond to claim 58 and the limitation of claims 70 and 74, respectively. Accordingly, we believe that claims 108 and 109 are in condition for allowance.

New independent claim 111 corresponds to claim 83 amended to include the limitation of claim 89 and intervening claims 84 and 85, new independent claim 112 corresponds to claim 83 amended to include the limitation of claim 90 and intervening claim 84, while new independent claim 113 corresponds to claim 83 amended to include the limitation of claim 94. Accordingly, we believe that claims 111-113 are in condition for allowance.

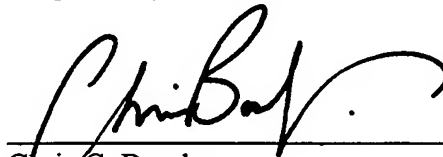
We submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested.

Enclosed is a \$602.00 check for excess claim fees and a \$110.00 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing attorney docket no. 09712-110001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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